

Alabama Board of Examiners for
Speech-Language Pathology and
Audiology
(ABESPA)

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ABESPA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIV

SUMMER 2013

BOARD MEMBERS

Thomasyne E. Hill, Ed.D., CCC-SLP

Chair

District 7 Term: 2010 - 2013

Committees:

ABESPA Liaison

Tonia M. Beverly, Au.D., CCC-A

Vice Chair

District 1 Term: 2010 - 2013

Committees:

Credentials Review

Danni Odom-Winn, CCC-SLP

District Term: 2011 - 2014

Committees:

Continuing Education

Linda Hughes, Consumer Member

District 2 Term: 2010 - 2013

Committees:

Special Assistance

Florence Cuneo, Au.D., CCC-A

District 3 Term: 2012 - 2015

Committees:

Rules and Regulations

George D. Murphree, Jr., Au.D., CCC-A

District 5 Term: 2011 - 2014

Committees:

Applications Review

Jane H. Leach, CCC-SLP

District 6 Term: 2012 - 2015

Committees:

Minutes/Website

Wanda Rawlinson
Executive Secretary

Shemicka Williams
Administrative Asst.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Yvonne Saxon, J.D.

A Word From The Chair

Thomasyne E. Hill, Ed.D., CCC-SLP

The ABESPA Board has been working hard this year trying to update the Rules and Regulations. We have been attempting to have more consistent language throughout the document as well as make rules and regulations consistent with ASHA guidelines for certification. You will read in another section of this newsletter about the changes we have brought before you to review before our public hearing. One of the changes I would like to bring to your attention is the increase in licensure fees.

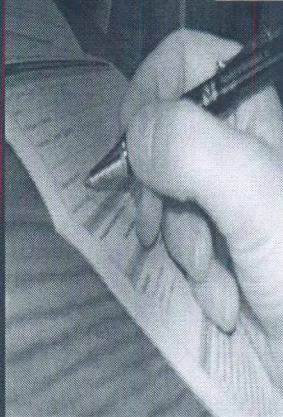
We thought long and hard about increasing licensure fees but our expenses have increased as our budget has decreased. In these difficult economic times, we understand that this may inconven-

ience some. However, we have not increased our fees in over 10 years. We were cited by the auditors when we were up for Sunset Review regarding our expenses and the legislative committee wanted to know how we were going to address this. This is the only way we can because the only revenue we receive is through licensure fees. We want to thank you in advance for your continued support as we strive to protect our consumers and regulate our practice here in the State of Alabama.

I have enjoyed serving on this board representing District 7. I will be ending my term at the end of this fiscal year. My learning curve has been widened and extended beyond belief. I was one of those persons who waited until

the last minute to complete licensure paperwork. This journey has enlightened me to the WORK ABESPA does for our profession and the importance of timely completing all documents for licensure. The legal ramifications as well as the ethical considerations are more numerous than I can even begin to list.

I would like to encourage everyone to think about holding a position on the Board. I guarantee you will not only learn a lot but you will also learn to appreciate so much more. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you on the ABESPA Board. I look forward to seeing your name going before the Governor as a candidate for this Board.



"The Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services."

How Does the Application Process Work

George D. Murphree, Jr., Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA Applications Committee Chair

The Applications Review Committee receives and reviews all applications to ensure that the applicant meet all ABESPA requirements for licensure, assistant registration, and clinical fellowship (CFY) for Speech Pathology and Audiology fourth year registration. The Board dictates when an application can be approved which effects when an applicant can start a CFY period, 4th Year Au.D., period and even start work as a licensed professional. The vote to approve an application can only take place at a scheduled ABESPA Board Meeting, usually the second Friday of each month (the schedule can be found on the ABESPA website www.abespa.org).

Therefore, all materials necessary to complete the application must be received by the Board prior to the day of the scheduled Board meeting. If the application is not complete, the Board cannot vote to approve the application, and will be unable to act on the application until the next scheduled Board Meeting typically a month later.

So, what are some of the most common reasons for an incomplete application? The most common reason are delays in transcripts from the Universities, missing passport style photograph, no payments attached and please make sure the payment has adequate funds, and no Praxis score.

You should keep a copy of all correspondence and e-mails sent to the Board especially the initial application, do not hesitate about emailing questions to the Board, we are here to help you. It is much easier and quicker to approve an application when it is complete. After sending in your application, you may contact the Boards' office to verify receipt of your information.

Consumer Member Report

Linda W. Hughes, Consumer Member

This position is an appointment by the Governor of Alabama and I am currently in my 3rd year with the ABESPA board. I am the only unlicensed professional and as the consumer member, I help the board protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. I meet with the board on a monthly basis to review applications for licensure and investigate any complaints against licensed

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

I have represented many consumers in my career as a full time Real Estate Professional with a CRS and ABR designation. I have been in practice for over 30 years and currently hold my license with Bell and Corwin Realtors in Montgomery, Al.

For the past 17years, I have

been an active recipient of all rehabilitation services as the mother of a 35 year old daughter who at 18 was involved in a tragic, life changing car accident. I have personally worked with licensed professionals as the consumer.

With my experience, I am proud to have been appointed to serve on the ABESPA board as the consumer advocate.

Rules and Regulations Committee

Florence Cuneo, Au.D., CCC-A, Rules and Regulations

There are several proposed changes in the Rules and Regulations. The increase in the renewal fees is a result of recommendations made by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. A few of the proposed changes are in response to the increase of ethical complaints against Licensees. The other proposals pertain to the training of Au.D. Candidates and other housekeeping changes. A public hearing will be held on July 19, 2013 to consider and discuss these proposals. Licensees are encouraged to provide input. The last changes to the Rules and Regulations were completed in 2010. The most current are available on the website, www.abespa.com.

Throughout Section 870-X-2 of the Rules and Regulations, it is proposed to change CFY (Clinical Fellowship Year) to CF (Clinical Fellow). This change is consistent with the terminology used by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA).

A section describing the roles and responsibilities of the Clinical Fellowship/4th Year Internship Supervisor has been added in this chapter. The purpose of this is to provide consistency of mentoring students or new professionals across disciplines.

As a result of last year's audit, an increase in fees was recommended. The proposed change increases the renewal fee for a license from \$75.00 to \$100.00. The Assistant renewal fee is proposed to increase from \$37.50 to \$50.00. ABESPA has received a significant increase in complaints against licensees. Most of the complaints involve unethical acts. A change in Rules and Regulations suggests that one of the ten mandatory continuing education hours in Content Area I should be in the area of ethics.

The other rules and regulations are housekeeping changes. Redundancy in the Mandatory Continuing Education section, 870-X-4-.08 was deleted.

As a licensee, you are invited and encouraged to submit any comments or views concerning these proposed changes in the Rules and Regulations to Wanda Rawlinson, the executive secretary of the Board before July 19, 2013.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Date: July 19th, 2013

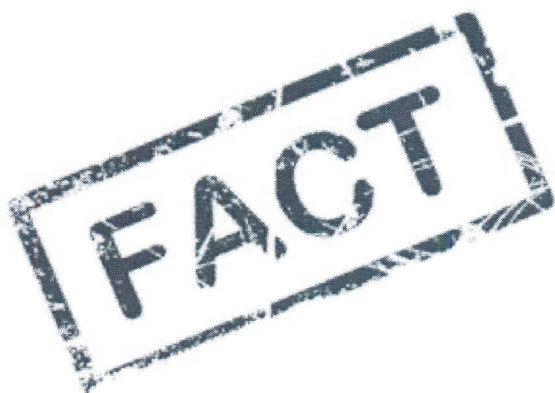
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: 400 South Union Street
4th Floor Conference Room
Montgomery, AL

If you would like to attend the Public Hearing on Rules and Regs changes, please contact the ABESPA office by telephone at 334-269-1434 or email: abespa@mindspring.com to have your name placed on the agenda. If you are unable to attend the hearing, send any comments to ABESPA, P.O. Box 304760, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760.

Fast Facts on Fulfilling Requirements for License Re-Newal!

Danni Odom-Winn, CCC-SLP



FACT 1 Your SLP and / or Audiology license(s) expires at 11:59 PM on December 31st each year.

FACT 2 You CANNOT practice (see patients clients) without a license.

THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD!
(ABESPA Code- 870-X-4-.03)

FACT 3 If you see patients / clients without a license, you can be fined \$1000 for **EVERY** person you have served. **OUCH!**

FACT 4 You need **12** Continuing Education Hours (CEUs) in order to renew your license annually.

FACT 5 10 of your CEUs must be directly related to your area of Licensure.
1 (one) of the 10 hours should be on Ethics.
2 (two) hours can be in an area related to your area of Licensure.

FACT 6 If you are notified you are being audited, mail in all your **CEU** proof to the ABESPA office. *NOTE: Keep all CEU documentation for 5 years! (in case you're audited)*

FACT 7 If you are being audited and you want to be licensed by January 1st, The **ABESPA** Board members must review your information by December 13, 2013. If the information is not in the Board office in time, you will have to wait until January's meeting for your license renewal to be considered.

FACT 8 If you are not being audited, you can renew online or through the mail.

FACT 9 Do not attempt to Renew for 2014 until after October 1, 2013.

FACT 10 There are no exceptions to Facts 1 to 9.

Surfing the Web

Jane Leach, CCC-SLP



Here is information you will find on the ABESPA website (www.abespa.org):

License Renewal – Online or mail

Board Members and ABESPA committees

Rules and Regulations – Administrative code; Requirements for licensure (qualifications, process and application, clinical fellowship year, assistant registration)

For Consumers – ABESPA's guide for consumers

Download Forms- License renewal/application; CFY registration; end of CFY; license by reciprocity; request for grant monies for continuing education; continuing education preapproval application; change of address request; change of name request; information and instructions for filing a complaint

Find My Congressional District – Go to www.federalreporting/congressionalDistricts.do

Licensee requests – name or address change; license verification; duplicate card request, etc.

Continuing Education – Rules; CELL; Preapprovals

License Verification

Newsletters

FAQS

Board Meeting Dates

Links – AAA, ADA, ASHA, NCSB, SHAA

Search ABESPA's Site

Site Map

Important Information!!

Dr. Thomasyne Hill, ABESPA Chair

It has been brought to the attention of the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA/Board) that several school systems in the State may be using telepractice or other electronic methods as a means of providing services in areas where there is a shortage of speech, language and hearing professionals. If you are a system contracting with a company, please verify the license of the professional. If they are not in possession of a current and valid Alabama license to provide speech, language, or hearing services, they are in violation of ABESPA Rules and Regulations regarding practicing without a license. As such the professional **MUST** cease and desist practicing in this State of Alabama until a valid and current license is obtained.

The Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology is the licensing board for all Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in the State of Alabama. Professionals, representing themselves as Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, must be licensed to practice by ABESPA, unless they work in an exempt setting. The exempt settings

are specified by the Alabama Legislature in Alabama Code Section 34-28A-3 (1975). Although the public schools in Alabama are considered an exempt setting, **the professional must be EMPLOYED by the Alabama State Department of Education and hold valid current credentials according to the Alabama State Department of Education to be considered exempt.** Also, please note that the exemption provided for persons employed by the Alabama State Department of Education applies **ONLY** while the professional is providing services *within* in the confines of the school setting. Any "independent" services provided outside of the school setting requires the professional to obtain a license from ABESPA to provide speech, language or hearing services.

If a professional is working in a school, but is employed by a company providing **contract services** to that school system, then that professional **MUST** have an Alabama license to practice Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The exemption only applies if the professional is a direct employee of the Alabama State Department of Education. Section 870-X-2-.01 (j), of the ABESPA Rules

and Regulations, further states that any practitioner, who does not work within one of the stated exempt settings **MUST** hold an Alabama license to practice Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. This *shall* be required for *all* individuals providing services for consumers in Alabama via in-office practice as well as telepractice, or any other electronic means.

If you have any questions, regarding this information, please feel free to contact me or the ABESPA office. You may also go to the Board's website, www.abespa.org and click on the link to review the Rules and Regulations. ABESPA is concerned about the services our consumers are receiving, and we appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Credential Review

Tonia M. Beverly, Au.D., CCC-A

The Credential Review Committee is charged with investigating and reporting to the Board instances of apparent violations of the Alabama law governing the licensing of speech-language pathologist and audiologists and with monitoring the enforcement of the Alabama law for the Board. From 2011 through May 2013 there have been 12 complaints received by the committee, with three having moved toward formal disciplinary hearings. Complaints included, but were not limited to, billing for services not rendered, forgery/fraud, and potential HIPAA violations. Due to the increase in number of complaints over the recent years, this year the Board offered opportunity for licensees to receive Continuing Education credits in the area of Ethics at the 2013 SHAA Convention, as part of the ABESPA Forum. The ABESPA Board is planning on offering an Ethics seminar annually at the Convention.

If you feel that someone has violated the ASHA Code of Ethics, is taking advantage of consumers or engaging in illegal practices, please send a letter to the Board and thoroughly explain the reason(s) for your complaint. The complaint form can be easily found on the ABESPA Website under the downloadable forms section.

Discipline Procedure

Yvonne Saxon, Assistant Attorney General

The following is the basic procedure for disciplinary action:

1. Written letter of complaint (mailed, faxed, e-mailed),
2. Waiver of anonymity request sent to complainant,
3. Letter to complainant acknowledging letter,
4. Letter to subject of the complaint,
5. Further investigation as deemed appropriate by ABESPA,
6. Follow-up letters to parties, and
7. Resolution of complaint formal or informal.
8. Where applicable, the complaint is also forwarded to other licensing boards.

An Informal resolution of the complaint is appropriate. If an informal resolution is reached, it will include a settlement between the Board and the parties.

A Formal resolution involves a disciplinary hearing. The Board follows the disciplinary hearing procedure as provided in ALA. CODE § 34-28A-26 (b) (c) (1975), and Rules and Regulations § 870-X-5-.01.

(Continued)

Discipline Procedures (continued)

REPORT TO THE NATIONAL DATA BANK

All Disciplinary Actions (formal and informal) that result in a disciplinary action against the licensee is reported by ABESPA to the National Data Bank for Health Care Professionals.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Any party who is not satisfied with the Decision of the Board may appeal the decision to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County pursuant to ALA. CODE § 41-22-1, *et seq* (1975).

GENERAL SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

The Board has received the following types of complaints in the past five years:

- Ethical Violations: falsified documentation to receive money for services that he/she did not provide. Licensee misrepresents hours of service provided.
- Representation as SLP/AUD: A non-licensee represents that he/she was a *licensed* audiologist or speech language pathologist, and entered into a contract to provide audiology services for a nursing home.
- Misdiagnosis: Licensee misdiagnosed a hearing test done on a new born baby. Licensee was working in an exempt setting (under supervision of physician). Licensee's actions were recognized as negligence. Considering the exempt status, the Board required licensee to complete additional educational hours to maintain her license current for the next two years.
- Misrepresentations in the newspaper and telephone books: These follow the same procedure. In some instances there are exemptions or simply misunderstandings.
- Complaints regarding internet solicitation and advertisement: There is very little that can be done in this area.

SUMMARY

Decisions on disciplinary actions are decided on a case-by-case basis by ABESPA within the above guidelines. **All investigations are kept confidential.** If the investigation does not result in a disciplinary action against the licensee, the file is closed and no further actions are taken. There is no report to the National Data Bank. If, however, the complaints results in a finding of a violation against the licensee, after the confidential investigation, the report **MUST** be submitted to the National Data Bank. To avoid a violation of ABESPA's laws, ask questions before the action is taken. You may contact the Board of assistance on questions you may have in carrying out your duties as a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist.

Change of Address Notification

Name:	License Number:
Previous	Current
Business Name	Business Name
Address	Address
City, State and Zip Code	City, State and Zip Code
Please Submit via Mail, Fax or Email to:	
<p>Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA)</p> <p>400 S. Union Street, Suite 435 P.O. Box 304760 Montgomery, AL 36130-4760 Fax: (334) 834-9618</p> <p>Email: abespa@mindspring.com</p>	

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2013

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
July 19th, 2013	10:00 a.m.	400 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760
August 9, 2013	10:00 a.m.	400 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760
September 13, 2013	10:00 a.m.	400 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760
October 4, 2013	10:00 a.m.	400 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760
November 8, 2013	10:00 a.m.	400 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760
December 13, 2013	10:00 a.m.	400 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-4760